

Antiperspirants/Deodorants and Breast Cancer

Recent articles in the press and on the Internet have warned that underarm antiperspirants or deodorants cause breast cancer. The original source of this misinformation is not clear.

Scientists at the National Cancer Institute are not aware of any research to support a link between the use of underarm antiperspirants or deodorants and the subsequent development of breast cancer. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which regulates food, cosmetics, medicines, and medical devices, also does not have any evidence or research data to support the theory that ingredients in underarm antiperspirants or deodorants cause cancer. Thus, there appears to be no basis for this concern.

People who are concerned about their cancer risk are encouraged to talk with their doctor. Also, U.S. residents may wish to contact the Cancer Information Service (see below) with any remaining questions or concerns about breast cancer.

Inquirers who live outside the United States may wish to contact the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) for information about a resource in their country. The UICC Web site is located at <http://www.uicc.org> on the Internet. Also, some countries have organizations that offer services similar to those of the U.S. Cancer Information Service. A list of international cancer information services can be found at <http://cis.nci.nih.gov/resources/intlist.htm> on the Internet.

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Sources of National Cancer Institute Information

Cancer Information Service

Toll-free: 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237)

TTY (for deaf and hard of hearing callers): 1-800-332-8615

NCI Online

Internet

Use <http://www.cancer.gov> to reach NCI's Web site.

CancerMail Service

To obtain a contents list, send e-mail to cancermail@icicc.nci.nih.gov with the word "help" in the body of the message.

CancerFax® fax on demand service

Dial 301-402-5874 and listen to recorded instructions.

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